

EFFICIENCY, FORM and FUNCTION

in Architecture

Fitzpatrick Architects (FA) in Tyler, the firm responsible for the design of Wood County Electric Cooperative's new headquarters building, approaches each project considering the client's unique point of view and the purpose for the building's occupants. The founder of the firm, Architect Steve Fitzpatrick, opened it in 1986. In 2010, he invited five of his staff architects to become partners. These partners, along with the rest of the staff, work in an open-studio concept that allows collaboration and inspiration from the entire team.

At FA, while every project is approached with input from all, there is always a project architect who develops the vision and the design, overseeing the job from initial concept to completed building. For WCEC's new headquarters building, that project architect is Brandy Ziegler. Ziegler has many successful projects under her belt, from

accreditation as a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, professional.

Of her work on WCEC's design, Ziegler said, "It's not a copied look. This building will be unique for the function and also the history of the co-op."

She said that she and others at the firm researched the history of electric cooperatives to gather a feel for what the building should be.

"The thing that we found most unique was that back when cooperatives were formed in the 1930s, there was this push to reach out to the rural communities, and there was the idea of helping to better society by providing electricity and connectivity," she said.

In particular, during that research, they came across publicity material published by the Rural Electrification Administration. Notably, Ziegler said, they were especially enamored by graphic artist Lester Beall's Constructivist designs for posters. Brandy said she found the art to be "very strong, graphically bold and good inspiration" for the building design.

With this inspiration in mind, to start on WCEC's building design Ziegler began with pencil sketches on paper, because she said it's easier to develop the artistic elements capturing both the subjective and objective. Her team also incorporated the idea that there would be a work side of the building and a more public side, with the main façade of the building facing west. These factors brought in overarching components like the appearance of the building on a main thoroughfare, circulation of traffic on-site, personnel workflow and a major consideration of heat gain on the west side that could drive heating and cooling costs.

Once FA captured all of the physical needs for the building, a square-footage figure was established. Then, discussions began with WCEC management to ensure that all of the physical needs were met, while also keeping the square footage as small as practical to contain costs.

But, very important to FA and WCEC management is not only how the building functions for employees and members, but also its operating costs. That's where Ziegler's LEED training helped ensure operating efficiencies for the lifetime of the building. To accomplish that, architectural, mechanical and electrical design features must work together.



Brandy Ziegler is an accomplished architect and will use her specialized training to ensure that WCEC's new building is as energy efficient as it is functional and attractive.

church facilities to medical and sports complexes, with probably one of her most notable being Brookshire's new Fresh store in Tyler.

Ziegler received her Master of Architecture from Texas Tech, then worked on projects in Dallas, Austin and Denver, Colorado, before joining FA. Ziegler has since earned



A rendering of the completed project.

Architecturally, Ziegler's team used passive energy-efficiency design techniques—the orientation of the building and the use of a stepped-back design to maximize natural, filtered light without increasing heat gain. For materials, the windows will incorporate insulated and high-efficiency glass. The outer “skin” of the building will have high R-value insulation and also include permanent shading and overhangs to reduce heat gain. The materials chosen are long lasting and low maintenance.

Another interesting consideration for FA is minimization of the “heat island effect,” which is an increase in temperature caused by large heat-absorbing surfaces such as parking lots and roofs. These surfaces can cause enormous temperature increases around a building, boosting cooling bills. To mitigate this, Ziegler has specified highly reflective roof surfaces and will also incorporate reflective paving surfaces.

Other features extend to the actual landscaping design that will incorporate more native and heat-tolerant plants that will minimize irrigation. And, to further reduce the building's water usage, highly efficient plumbing fixtures will be used.

The mechanical and electrical features of the building will also be designed to work together to minimize energy requirements. The building envelope will be constructed to minimize the size of the HVAC equipment used to heat and cool the building. The HVAC equipment will be a two-stage system that can work easily with demand. All of these systems will be programmable to reduce use at times when the building is not occupied.

There will also be a recirculating hot-water loop tied to the water heater to make efficient use of one, centrally

located electric water heater. This will complement the high-efficiency plumbing features.

Another important aspect of the building will be in the design of the lighting. Incorporating efficient light emitting diodes and compact fluorescent lightbulbs that have reduced heat output and require less energy than conventional bulbs will aid in reducing energy use, as will the use of controls and photocells to time or sense light applications for both external and interior lighting. As these and all fixtures are considered and the design matures, all features will be ultimately selected to provide the most efficiency and projected future payback, while also fitting within the construction budget.

Ziegler is very enthusiastic about working on WCEC's project. She visits Quitman often, as it's the hometown of her husband, Bryan.

“Driving into town, I've always felt the cooperative was the gateway to Quitman,” she said. “The park is to the west. The idea is to pull the building back to offer more green space and soften up the landscape.” Also, she wants the design of the building to convey the idea of the mission of providing electricity, while also relaying a sense of the cooperative mission of old: reaching out to the community.

“I feel like we thought about meaning, beauty and appreciation,” Ziegler said of the design. “As important is the function and how people appreciate what it means to the community. All of these working together will increase the usefulness and lifespan of the building. We want it to last a long time.” Ultimately, the goal, she says, is sustainability.

To see some of the firm's past projects, go to www.fitzpatrickarchitects.com.

Read about our construction team on Page 20.

Economy and Quality in Construction

The offices of Jackson Construction, the general contractor and construction manager for Wood County Electric Cooperative's new headquarters, are just blocks from Wood County Electric Cooperative. The business is owned by brothers Tim and Jonathan Jackson. Tim founded the business in 1984, and Jonathan joined as a partner in 1986. It's been dually run since. Tim and Jonathan, who have two other brothers, grew up right outside Quitman in the community of Clover Hill. Their parents were A.E. and Sue Jackson. A.E. owned a longtime Quitman business called



Construction Managers Jonathan, left, and Tim Jackson always work hard to ensure that their construction projects are not only imbued with quality, but also that they finish on time and on budget.

Antiques International. Their brother David is a pastor, while the other brother, Mike, works and lives in California.

Tim said the construction business came about almost organically. Following somewhat in A.E.'s footsteps, he had initially begun a business restoring antiques and musical instruments. To accommodate that business, he erected a building on Stephens Street. His first construction customer was someone who admired the job he'd done on his own building and asked Tim to erect a building for him. As it happened, that was just the first of many jobs to follow.

When A.E. decided to retire from his antiques business, where Jonathan was working with him, it was perfect timing for Jonathan to join Tim as a business partner.

Today, Jackson Construction has 15 full-time employees, including Tim's wife, Nancy, who is the office manager. There are also project managers, field superintendents and general laborers. The business specializes in steel-framed buildings, and the team has developed an extensive portfolio of projects with about 75 percent of their work being done for public entities and the rest for private businesses, such as banks, medical complexes and industrial buildings.

As an indication of their quality work, they've successfully completed buildings and complexes for many government entities, including state and government agencies and school districts, as well as for privately owned businesses and churches. They are meticulous in project planning and work hard to ensure quality and cost control of every project. Over the years, the Jacksons have aligned themselves with a cadre of subcontractors throughout East Texas, so the economic impact of the Wood County Electric Cooperative project will significantly and directly benefit the area.

Because of these special local relationships, the Jacksons are able to perform work in extremely demanding time frames and also in complex circumstances.

"What will make the WCEC project especially challenging is we'll be performing a lot of the work around existing structures," Jonathan said.

They will be demolishing a section of one of the existing co-op structures. The employees in that section will double up in the remaining buildings, and all systems will need to remain functional as employees continue to offer all of the full services of the co-op. The entire job will need to be precisely orchestrated.

That level of planning is nothing new for the Jacksons as evidenced by their successful projects that anchor East Texas towns. They've completed extensive projects for school districts in Quitman, Rains, Martin's Mill, Van, Lindale and Big Sandy, with many of those requiring speedy, quality erection to exacting specifications either during summer breaks or around hectic school schedules. They've also performed renovation work for Peoples Telephone Cooperative as well as

many other entities that require high quality at economical prices. Chances are that anyone who has driven through an East Texas town has seen their work at some time or another.

"The thing I like most about my job is I enjoy developing relationships with the owners, and we work to customize and individualize," Jonathan said. "Every single project is different and comes with its own challenges."

"We love the innovative design Fitzpatrick Architects has come up with, and it's a pleasure to work on the team between Fitzpatrick, Wood County Electric, and us," Tim added.

"The Wood County Electric Cooperative building is going to be an outstanding visual image," he predicted. "We will do everything we can to build it economically and as efficiently as we can. We are very excited about doing this project in our own town."

Jackson Construction is a member of Wood County Electric Cooperative. To find more information on the company, visit www.jackson-construction.net.



ISTOCKPHOTO | THINKSTOCK

The Seven Cooperative Principles

Wood County Electric Cooperative was founded on seven principles, which guide the co-op in making decisions that reflect the best interests of the consumers served.

1. Voluntary and Open Membership—Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

2. Democratic Member Control—Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.

3. Members' Economic Participation—Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

4. Autonomy and Independence—Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

5. Education, Training and Information—Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public, particularly young people and opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives—Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

7. Concern for Community—While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

YOUTH TOUR 2012

A Short Essay Can Win a Trip of a Lifetime

Wood County Electric Cooperative is calling all eligible teens (high school students enrolled as a sophomore, junior or senior) to apply for the 2012 Government-in-Action Youth Tour. One lucky teen will win an all-expense-paid trip to our nation's capital to experience a guided tour of Washington, D.C., from June 14-22. The trip will include airfare, transportation while in Washington, hotel rooms, food costs and guided tours of many exciting, educational and inspiring sites. Parents or guardians will be responsible for transporting the teen to and from Irving.

It's simple to enter. Candidates must submit a 450- to 500-word essay (about one typed page). This year's topic is devoted to the cooperative principles. Essayists should pick one of the seven cooperative principles and write about what it means to them. Essays will be judged on composition, neatness, originality and demonstrated knowledge of the subject.

The winner will travel with other students from across Texas. This group, upon arriving in Washington, will join approximately 1,500 Youth Tour participants from across the country. This tremendous learning opportunity will include tours of Mount Vernon and the Smithsonian museums, a boat cruise on the Potomac River and visits to other historical sites and memorials. Additionally, one day will be dedicated to touring the House and Senate chambers, the Library of Congress, and meeting with Texas congressional representatives.

Submit an essay not to exceed 500 words, which describes what one of the seven cooperative principles means to the essayist.

Essay entries should be mailed to: Wood County Electric Cooperative, Inc., Attention: Youth Tour 2012, P.O. Box 1827, Quitman, TX 75783

ELIGIBILITY AND RULES

Entries must have arrived at WCEC on or before February 24. Entries received after that date will be disqualified.

Contestant must be:

- A high school student enrolled as a sophomore, junior or senior.
- A dependent of a Wood County Electric Cooperative member with permanent resident status in WCEC service area.

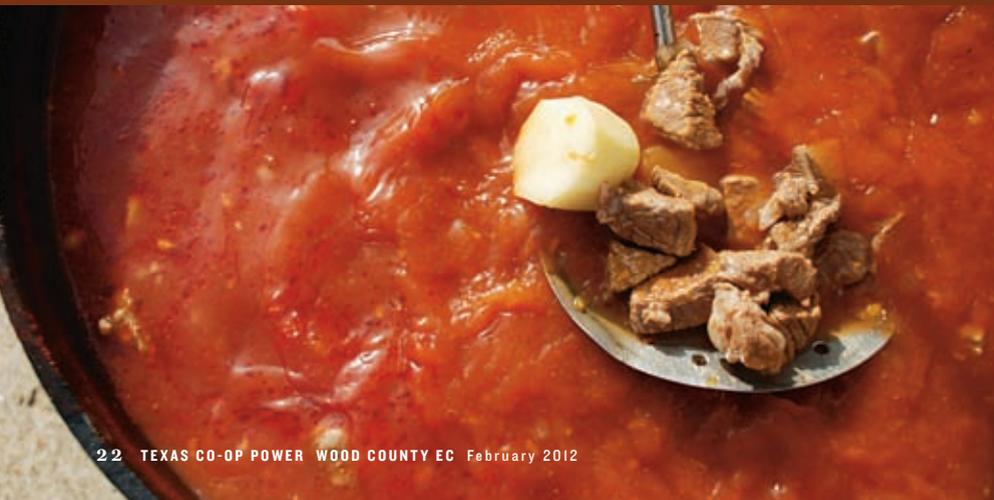
No name should appear on the essay. On a separate cover sheet, the contestant should include: student essayist name, name and address of parent/guardian who is a member of WCEC, contact telephone number and WCEC account number.

Reference materials from various sources including libraries and the Internet may be used, but the essay should be in the student's own words.



A Favorite Son

STIRS IT UP



Every county has a favorite son or two, and Sam White could certainly be called that, and then some. He's also a favored and rather renowned cook in all parts of East Texas.

White, a native East Texan, was born and raised in the Cana and Myrtle Springs communities just a few miles northwest of Quitman. Born in 1928, he was the fourth child—the baby—and the only boy born to Buena and Oscar White. For his first few school years, White attended Cana School, and then spent some years in Mineola and a few more in Quitman, never really straying out of Wood County. That is, until he joined the Army in 1952 when he served in Japan and Korea in the 24th Infantry, 52nd Field Artillery. Ultimately, before his tour of duty ended, he was promoted to corporal.

Upon his return in 1954, White attended Tyler Junior College where he learned machining and welding. Using those skills, he promptly went to work in the oilfield for Caska, which eventually became Farmland Industries. He was employed there for 30 years. But, in addition to his paying job, White's kept the fires stoked (literally) as he has shopped and diced and chopped and fried and boiled his way into the hearts and stomachs of thousands. Over the last six decades, he's been the headline chef extraordinaire for countless nonprofit organizations, benefit efforts and almost every kind of celebration and festival in East Texas.

White says he never really had any special training to develop his skills. It sort of just happened. It began simply enough with his interest in the activities surrounding the last day of school at Cana, when the kids would be shooed off while the men went to work to make a big pot of stew. He always liked to hang around the pot and watch. For some reason, in later years that tradition had sort of fallen off and White decided he wanted to bring it back. Little did he know that his first effort at making 15 gallons of stew would be so successful that he would be fulfilling requests for stews, chilis,

fried fish and barbecues for a lifetime.

That first 15-gallon stew (squirrel) must have been pretty good, because demand grew from there. When White and his son Shannon joined a riding club, White was handed the ladle to cook the stew for its fundraiser. Then, White said he started helping out the Quitman Bulldog Boosters. As he tells it, that was sort of the beginning of his notoriety. Bill Poe, who was a classmate of his wife, the former Jimmie Jo Blalock, had decided to advertise the Bulldog fundraiser as a “Sam White Stew.” White says, “He just put my name on it and it’s been that way ever since.”

During his 55-year marriage and all of his years of volunteer stew cooking, White says that his beloved Jimmie Jo, who passed away in 2010, was very supportive. White laughs as he recounts, “She’d fuss at me about being messy,” but he said she’d also help him with the vegetables by running the food processor. Over the years, White has stewed beef and chicken, fried fish, made chili, and barbecued for the many masses. By special request, he’s branched out all over Wood County to help those who have called on him. He has cooked for many charitable organizations, including the Quitman and Hainesville volunteer fire departments, Alba Golden Sweet Potato Festival, Masonic Lodge, Alba Golden School and the Wood County Agriculture Show. And the list goes on. He’s also cooked for some pretty famous people, including sports legends Barry Switzer and Earl Campbell, and many lawmakers, including former U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm and state Sen. Ted Lyon.

The largest stew White has cooked thus far was a 135-gallon stew he stirred up for 800 people who arrived in town by wagon train. That was in 1985, but he can recall it like it was yesterday. “I sure had a lot of people helping,” he said. “It was the most fun I ever had cooking a stew because folks came from all over in wagons, and all the wagons made a circle like they’d do with the old wagon trains of

long ago.” He mentioned, “I did 35 stews for the Dogwood Fiesta, all but the 25th anniversary.” Of his most memorable is a fundraiser where he said, “I got to help Heather Riggs,” a local girl who needed medical care.

For White, it’s all about the helping. His philosophy is, “I owe it to the community to give back; and if the Lord is willing, I’ll sure do it for you.” And he makes it all sound so very simple, until one realizes the level of work that goes into the preparation. Once he gets on the schedule to cook, he must figure the amounts of all of his ingredients based on the number of people to be served. Then he places an advance order because many times the amount required involves cases of ingredients. He usually picks up the groceries the day before an event, because there’s hours of prep work that go into peeling and chopping all of the vegetables. Also, if he’s cooking a chicken stew, that meat gets cooked the day before, and then put in an extra refrigerator reserved for his stew cooking.

On the day of the stew, White must load up all his pots, utensils, burners and propane tanks. He also has an industrial-sized spice rack with his special ingredients. Then there are the cases of canned vegetables, bags of pasta and all of the prepped vegetables and meat. Once on-site, with the burners fired up, White starts to cook.

There’s a special order to things, with the meat going in first, followed by water. There’s a point where he skims foam off the top of the water, and then the vegetables are added in a certain order, with finely diced carrots going in first and then onions, potatoes and canned creamed corn. White says, “I time everything according to how long it takes to cook. He also says, “I just put the spices in by feel, and I also add Promise margarine for good flavor and color.”

When asked how many events he’s worked in his lifetime, he reckons that on average he has cooked six to 10 times a year. For example, just in the fall he has standing appointments, usually for six weekends in a row. So,

calculating with eight as the average number, White has likely cooked right around 450 event meals since 1955, feeding thousands.

After an event, when the burners go cold and the last pot is empty, the work is still not complete. White still has to gather up his supplies and wash up all the utensils and pots so they will be ready for the next assignment.

When an event is all over, White says, “If all goes well and I don’t stick the stew, I thank the good Lord for the health and the willpower and the gift of knowledge.” And he adds, “I have enjoyed doing this. When you make one and it all goes well, it makes you feel really good. I see so many people. I can’t remember them all, but I do remember the faces.”

There are not many who come along with his kind of service-oriented spirit. When asked whether he is passing on any of his secret recipes and knowledge to the next generation, which includes son Shannon, daughter Sheree White Mize, four grandsons and three great-grandchildren, he says that there’s one grandson, Brian, who has taken just a little interest. “My grandson Brian has been kind of watching; and if any of them do it, it would maybe be him.”

Because of his growing reputation as an expert chili and stew chef, White’s also been asked to serve as a judge for numerous chili-cooking contests. For those cooks, there’s got to be just an extra special sense of pride, knowing they’ve been judged by one of the very best.

One of White’s inspirations is Henry Harris, whom he quotes, “If you just stay still, you will rust out before you wear out. So keep on keeping on.” White describes the meaning by saying, “If you just sit down and do nothing, you will plumb rust out like an ol’ tin can.” As for how long White says he will give of his time and talents to the community, “I will do this as long as God will give me the strength.”

White lives in Quitman and has been a member of Wood County Electric Cooperative since 1956.